

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECSTATE WASHDC 4681

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PHNOMPENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T JAKARTA 12169

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL OVIP ID

SUBJ: VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY DEFENSE CLEMENTS

REF: JAKARTA 12125

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLEMENTS AND PARTY MADE HIGHLY USEFUL VISIT JAKARTA SEPTEMBER 29-30. VISIT, ALTHOUGH BRIEF, PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEETING WITH GENERAL YOGA, CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE; GENERAL PANGGABEAN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS; AND WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO.

2. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON VISIT AND RESULTS.

3. VISIT DEMONSTRATED ONCE MORE IMPORTANCE INDONESIANS ATTACH TO RELATIONSHIP WITH US, PARTICULARLY IN DEFENSE FIELD. DESPITE SUNDAY AND DURING RAMADAN, FOUR OUT OF SECRET

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FIVE TOP DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ATTENDED AMBASSADOR'S

DINNER FOR CLEMENTS SEPTEMBER 29. PRESIDENT SUHARTO GAVE ONE HOUR TO SECRETARY DESPITE INVOLVEMENT IN ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 30 COUP AND IMPENDING VISIT SHAH IF IRAN. FULL AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION BY HANKAM OFFICIALS PROVIDED EXCELLENT OUTLINE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

4. AS HAVE PREVIOUS VISITORS, SECRETARY CLEMENTS EMPHASIZED LIMITATIONS ON US ABILITY TO HELP BUT AT SAME TIME INDICATED READINESS TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES IN PERIOD OF TRANSITION AWAY FROM TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON GRANT AID. CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT SINCE, FOR FIRST TIME, PRESIDENT APPEARED CLEARLY UNDERSTAND US CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS. WHILE HE MADE CLEAR HE WANTED HELP OF GRANT AID AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, HE ALSO RECOGNIZED OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE TO DEPEND MORE AND MORE ON OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION SUCH AS CONCESSIONAL SALES OF EQUIPMENT IN INVENTORY, FMS CREDIT AND FMS CASH SALES. SECRETARY CLEMENTS' PRESENTATION TO PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ONE MORE BIG STEP IN REMOVING PREVIOUS SUSPICION ON PRESIDENT'S PART THAT LOWER AID LEVELS SOMEHOW REPRESENTED LESSENING OF OFFICIAL INTEREST IN INDONESIA.

5. IN ALL CONVERSATIONS CLEAR PREFERENCE EMERGED FOR CONTINUING PRIMARY DEPENDENCE ON US EQUIPMENT IN MOST CASES. WHERE CONCESSIONAL AID IS NOT AVAILABLE, PURCHASES THROUGH FMS ARE DESIRED. DESTROYER ESCORT SALES FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS HIGHLY APPRECIATED EXAMPLE OF CONCESSIONAL SALE. GENERAL HASNAN HABIB TOLD AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING VISIT THAT HANKAM OFFICIALS WOULD STUDY CLEMENTS' PRESENTATION, WOULD CHOOSE AREAS WHERE US PROCUREMENT IS DESIRED ON PRIORITY BASIS AND WOULD APPROACH US ON HOW SUCH PROCUREMENT CAN BE ARRANGED. IT IS LESS CLEAR WHAT GOI REACTION WILL BE TO OFFER MADE BY SECRETARY CLEMENTS TO STUDY INDONESIAN NEEDS IN VARIOUS MILITARY FIELDS.

6. IN DISCUSSION ON INDOCHINA WE WERE FURTHER APART. INDONESIANS GENERALLY EXHIBITED PESSIMISM OVER SOUTH VIETNAM

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WITH WHAT THEY SEE AS MANIFESTATIONS OF DECLINE IN PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE BECAUSE OF DECLINE IN AMERICAN AID. FEELING WAS EXPRESSED PARTICULARLY BY GENERALS PANGGABEAN AND YOGA, THAT BASED ON INDONESIA'S OWN EXPERIENCE WITH COMMUNISTS, THEY DID NOT FEEL EITHER VIETNAM OR CAMBODIA CONDUCTING PROPER KIND OF WAR; MORE EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON WINNING SUPPORT OF PEOPLE. SECRETARY CLEMENTS MADE IT CLEAR PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH DIFFICULT FOR THOSE FIGHTING

FOR THEIR LIFE IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

7. GOI INDICATED READINESS PROVIDE MORE MILITARY HELP FOR CAMBODIA IF US COULD HELP WITH COSTS. NO ENCOURAGEMENT WAS GIVEN. QUESTION OF OUR HELPING WITH COST FOR INDONESIAN ICCS CONTINGENT DID NOT ARISE. SENIOR HANKAM OFFICIAL TOLD AMBASSADOR INDONESIA WOULD PAY FOR SUPPORT OF ITS ICCS CONTINGENT BUT WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER ULTIMATE FATE OF ICCS BUDGET. DESPITE PESSIMISM, HOWEVER, INDONESIANS INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS REEMAIN IN ICCS. THERE WAS CLEARLY LESS ENTHUSIASM FOR ANY RESUMPTION FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAIGON OR ANY OTHER FORM OF PUBLIC SUPPORT.

8. AS TO SOUTHEAST ASIAN AREA, INDONESIANS COMMENTS MANIFESTED SUSPECION OF CHINA AND CHINESE, DOUBT ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THAILAND AND STRONG SENSE THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD SOLVE ASEAN PROBLEMS. PREFERENCE STATED FOR ZONE OF PEACE IN INDIAN OCEAN BUT THERE WAS QUIET ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY ALL OF ACCEPTANCE OF US PRESENCE, INCLUDING EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA. IT WAS CLEAR IN ALL DISCUSSIONS THAT INTERNAL INDONESIAN PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, WILL HAVE PRIORITY WHEREVER ANY EXPENDITURE OF RESOURCES IS INVOLVED.

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